

Historical Record of the Beginnings of Heber Valley Genealogical Branch Library

(Most of the following information came from the handwritten record of Brother Raymond Green—portions came from other materials Brother Green collected and put in a binder for future reference. Reference to other materials such as news articles, etc., will be noted and those materials will be in the historical reference section.)

This has been a dream and goal of Brother R. Raymond Green for many years. He has been accumulating books in his own library for many years. He has also been copying all family group sheets for the four generation program since he had responsibility for the Genealogy work in the Heber First Ward and also during his time as alternate High Councilman in the old Wasatch Stake which included all of the Wasatch County wards. He also has continued this through his tenure as High Councilman coordinator of Temple Work and Genealogical Work in the new Heber City Utah East Stake.

Brother Green started collecting genealogical books and biographies in January 1963. In December of 1963 the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers published a book entitled "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains" which gave the history of the County pioneers and their descendants. The book helped give rise to the importance of Genealogy work. In December 1964 the church suggested that each stake have a genealogical library. "In January 1965, I (Bro. Green) reminded our Stake President, J. H. Call at the 1st Ward Hobby Show, that we need a Stake Genealogical Library as suggested by the Church in our High Priest green genealogy manual." (This information came from a hand written sheet of paper in Brother Green's Genealogy (Family History) journal. During this time period Brother Green began to collect Pedigrees and Family Group sheets from all who would submit them to him for filing. In the Family History Library are many volumes of those records.

Brother Green has urged the High Council and Stake Presidencies of the two Stakes in Heber City for over three years to try to get a Genealogical Branch Library started in Heber Valley—especially after favorable interviews with three different brethren in the Genealogical Society of Utah in Salt Lake City including Elder Theodore M. Burton.

In December 1975 an application was approved by President Robert F. Clyde after the idea had been presented to the body of the Stake Priesthood on

1975. This application was first sent to Elder Richard L. Warner, our regional representative, for his approval and signature, and this signature was received during January 1976.

January 1976

After this application for a 2 Stake Branch Genealogical Library had been approved by President Reed Ford and President Robert F. Clyde and our Regional Representative Richard L. Warner, it was forwarded to Elder Theodore M. Burton for approval.

22 Jan 1976

Brother George H. Fudge of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints wrote a letter to President Robert F. Clyde stating that our application for a Heber Valley Genealogical Branch Library had been approved, and that we should proceed with completion of "Requirements of Accreditation".

26 Jan 1976

The above letter was postmarked and sent with further instructions today.

29 Jan 1976

President Robert F. Clyde handed the letter and further instructions to Brother Raymond Green. What a nice birthday gift to Brother Green on his 59th birthday.

9 Feb 1976

Brother Green presented a letter to President Robert F. Clyde for his signature stating we were happy for the approval of application and pointing out a delay in accreditation was probably necessary until the new Heber City Utah East Stake Center can be completed which will be in fifteen months.

10 Feb 1976

An approval was received from the Stake Presidency to buy books and supplies for the Genealogical Library using stake budget funds.

11 Feb 1976

Met with Stake President Robert F. Clyde again on equipment list. They (President Klein and President Smedley) want only 4 Readers to begin with and then more later as the need is shown. President Clyde said, "Better get what you

want now—there'll never be a better chance for the money."

22 Feb 1976

It appears that Genealogy work is about to be really kicked off in this valley. The Heber East Stake Presidency, High Council and their wives and families met at Heber 1st –6th Ward cultural hall and had their first general workshop. Sister Florine Whiting was the main teacher and Brother Green introduced her and her staff of teachers: Eleanor Gardner, Fawn Chidester, Marvel Murdock and Lynn Tregaskis. Sister Shirley Green is handling a very basic class for the 4-8 year olds. Older children meet with their parents around tables and are actually doing their Books of Remembrance. These workshops will run thru March, April and into May—each Sunday night for twelve classes. This Leadership group will be the nucleus of this same thing being done in the wards. We will invite the Ward Bishops and their Executive Council and all their wives to come and observe this in their individual groups.

15 Apr 1976

Sister Irene Thacker was the first patron to give books to the new Branch Library. She gave two books.

18 Apr 1976

President Robert F. Clyde spoke to Brother Raymond Green and said, "Have we ordered our Genealogy Reference books and equipment and supplies?" Brother Green said, "No, I've been waiting for final approval from you. President Clyde then said, "Go right ahead, Brother Green and order them." Brother Green will now go through proper channels, working with Brother Charles Jenkins whose responsibility is sending through a requisition for all the basic book list, films, CFI, supplies, microfilm readers and microfiche reader for our new Branch Library for Heber Valley.

All the necessary papers were filed for the approval of the center and the okay to go ahead was received and plans were made to house the Center in the Heber East Stake Center.

There was a delay notice sent into the Church offices, since the Heber East Stake Center was not yet completed. It will be completed in 1978 and there will be a room set aside for the Regional Family History Center.

In September 1978 the Family History Center (at that time called the Heber

Regional Branch Genealogical Library), after much preparation and Priesthood planning finally had it's first home. It was located in the new Heber East Stake Center on the corner of Old Mill Road and Center Creek Road. One of the clerk's offices at the stake center was to be the beginning place for this very important venture. Even though the space was very small, it was a welcome beginning for doing the Lord's work in this part of His vineyard.

The Chairman of the the Library Board at this time was President Larry B. Duke, Heber East Stake. Duane Sweat, Bishop of the Center Creek Ward, and Neil Duke, Bishop of the Daniel Ward were members of the board.

The building librarian was Sister Irene Thacker and the Associate Librarian for Genealogy was Brother Raymond Green.

The hours for the center were: week day evenings from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Many workers volunteered or were called to work at the center. The following were a part of that group:

Director: Brother Raymond Green

Instructor: Florine M. Whiting

Patron Services Librarian: Dale E. Gunn

Technical Services Librarian: Rex A. Whiting

A list of the staff of the first genealogical (Family History) library:

Minnie Carlile, Sherri Dasey, Earl Ford, Lona Ford, Mitzi McPhie, Blodwin Gertsch, J. Lindon Chapman, Tora Chapman, Ramona Bates, Ethel Giles, Grant Giles, Fred Parker, Helen Parker, Frenna Mayo, Lonnie Thompson, Irene Tisdale as well as at least 8 others.

In the fall of 1979 the center was moved from the East Stake Center to the Seminary building at the Jr. High School. (What will be the Middle School this fall (2009). There were new people who came in at this time. Dan Baldstaedt was the director and Mary, his wife, was the trainer. Later Clyde Muir became the director with Sharon Thornton as the trainer. Other workers were Erma Wade and several others joined the workers. After February of 1980 the German Extraction program began with Walter Seiter was the director. There was plenty of room so it worked well. During this time a new copy machine was purchased, as well as microfilm and microfiche readers as well. While in this building the center was under the direction of the Heber Stake. President Reed Ford was the Stake President. The hours were extended to 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M. weekdays. Some of the evenings were open to patrons from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. While in this building our first computer was purchased. It was a little Epson and the Ancestral File on discs could be used on the computer. Then other discs including the Social

Security File became available. Patrons could come and print out their line from the Ancestral File. Patrons could type their own Ancestral file, save it on a disk. It was a real learning process. Most of us had never sat down at a computer before this time. If the workers wanted to use the computer they had to come in and do their work during the hours we were closed. It was wonderful. This was in 1991. What a great thing to be able to put all this information on a disk and keep it so we could add to it at anytime.

Midway Stake was created in 1983 and the genealogy work continued to grow. The words Family History began to take the place of Genealogy more and more. The Heber Regional Family History Center was moving right along.

The move to Midway was in 1990-91. The center was housed in the old Midway 2nd Ward building on Main Street next to the Town Hall. The director was Clyde Muir. Irene Tisdale was the Assistant Director. Sharon Thornton was the trainer. Later Sharon Thornton became the Director and trainer. After she left Irene Tisdale became the director and she felt that the Priesthood should be in charge, so she asked the brethren if we could have a Priesthood holder as the director. The center was under the direction of the Midway Stake at this time and President Ronald Stone agreed that he would try to find someone to take the position. Sometime later (1998) Brother Homer LeBaron became the director with Clyde Muir as the Heber Stake Assistant Director, Irene Tisdale as Midway Stake Assistant, Pat Greenman as Heber East Stake Assistant. At this time there were about 32 volunteers.

The whole east end of the building was used for the Center. For a time the training room was in the upstairs of the building. A wall was removed in the class room on the east end to enlarge the whole center rooms. Two rooms next to the large room were used for the overhead projectors and microfiche machine so that it could be kept dark in the room. The workers were trained in the use of the computer. The German Extraction room was on the west end of the building. During this time the center was able to get on the Internet and do a lot of research, thanks to John Probst who provided the center with 4 computers and access to the Internet hookup. What a blessing this has been to the center. The church also furnished more computers. Two rooms in the basement were used for storage of materials given to the center.

Ellis Allred became the next director of the Family History Library, Keith Thomas was the computer specialist. He kept the computers running. Iris Eaton was one of the trainers. Her organization skills were much appreciated.

In 2002 the Olympics came to Utah. Our area had the opportunity to set up a

FamilySearch program. It was set up in the recreation hall in the building. Computers were placed around the room and when visitors came they had plenty of room in which to work. Linda Curley Christensen of Wallsburg painted three lovely pictures for the Olympics for the Family Search classes. The Midway Stake bought the beautiful frames for them and they are now in possession of the Midway Stake. Keith and Pauli Thomas were directors of the affair. Many people came to the center during this time. In fact a Russian person came and was helped to find family history with the help of Brother Leonard Lonczyna who could read the information which was in a foreign language.

During 2001 the list of volunteers was growing.

The list is Ann Baum, Irene Brandt, Tom Brandt, Beth Carter, Iris Eaton, Lisa Gardner, Juanita Giles, Linda Mecham, Jane Meeks, Clyde Muir, Assistant Director and Stake Consultant, Colleen tolley, Lucinda Jensen, Danielle Baker, Pat Broadhead, Nina Christiansen, Bill Christiansen, David Davies, Suzanne Goodrich, Francis Harrison, Phyllis Kendall, Tom Martin, Frenna Mayo, Shirlene Mayo, Lynn McLean, Marilyn Mulliner, Monte Nielson, Kathi Olsen, Doris Rock, Rita Wills, Bob Wren, Assistant Director and Stake Consultant, Catherine Anderson, Nanette Hjelm, Jenny Clawson, Judy Gardner, Buff Griffiths, Cal Griffiths, Merrill Hall, Leonard Lonczyna, Leona Lonczyna,

Heber North Stake was created making 4 stakes in the valley being served by the Family History Center.

The Family History Center director at present (2009) is Robert Wren. His assistants from the stakes are:

Heber Stake is Iris Eaton

Heber East Stake is David Rimington

Heber North Stake is Harry Zane

Midway Stake is Irene Tisdale

In 2003 the work continued in the Midway Center. Many people came for help. Classes were held in the various wards. Classes were held in the training center to help the consultants be up to date on the new information that came to the Center from the Family History Center in Salt Lake City.

In 2004–2005–2006–2007 workers have been coming and going in their assignments in the Family History Center. The idea of the current building being sold to Midway City has been settled and the decision for the Family History

Center to be moved to the old 4th ward building on 2nd West and 5th South in Heber City was settled and the move was made. The entry for the center is on the 2nd West side of the building. The area that the center is housed in used to be the Primary side of the building. Two walls were removed and the computers were housed in that area. A large back room houses the training room which has 12 computers for the use of special training. The other two rooms house overhead projectors and other items. The center has nicely finished rooms and plenty of light where needed. The hours are during the day and Saturday AM for the time being. Hopes of having evening sessions is progressing. Since the new.familysearch.org has been created on the Internet and consultant training is going strong, some classes are held on Sunday evenings as well as Tuesday evening and Thursday AM. So that the consultants can take all the training they need to be ready for the clearance of our Stakes (Region) to go on to the program. We are in the Provo Temple region and the Temple has installed all the program needed for the members to work on doing their family history work. The move to the new building was in November 2008. What a wonderful place to be.

In November 2009 the work is progressing and many people are coming in to get help in clearing their names to do the temple work.

In Midway Stake John Probst was assigned to help prepare the consultants for working with the members of that stake. The High Councilman is brother Willets and John was called to assist him in the work. John has been having meetings with the Midway Stake ward consultants once a month to encourage them to have the stake members start working on their family history. Classes will be held in each ward to help those starting out in the new program.

The 3 Heber Stakes will be doing the same type of work.